

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. **(Original)** A computer-implemented method for estimating the feasibility of outsourcing information technology services, comprising:

extracting, based on one or more selection criteria, at least a portion of a first set of empirical data associated with one or more software applications in a historical portfolio, the historical portfolio containing software applications utilized by a client;

aggregating at least a portion of the extracted data;

creating a statistical model of the historical portfolio based on the first set of data;

generating a simulated portfolio based at least in part on the statistical model;

generating a cost estimate associated with outsourcing technology services based at least in part on the simulated portfolio and a second set of data, at least a portion of the second set of data containing empirical data, the empirical data containing data and assumptions relating to the historical portfolio; and

determining the feasibility of outsourcing technology services based at least in part on the cost estimate.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein extracting at least a portion of the first set of data further comprises:

grouping the extracted data based on the one or more selection criteria;

removing, from the extracted group, the extracted data concurrently used by more than one project; and

extracting removing, from the extracted group, the extracted data associated with production support projects based on the one or more selection criteria.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
comprising randomly selecting at least a portion of the aggregated data to create a validation dataset;
randomly selecting at least a portion of the validation dataset; and
aggregating using the randomly selected portion of the validation dataset to create a validation portfolio, the validation portfolio being used to validate the statistical model of the historical portfolio.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
creating a training dataset from at least a portion of the aggregated data, the training dataset used to create the statistical model of the historical portfolio;
randomly selecting at least a portion of the training dataset to create a training portfolio; and
training the statistical model using the training portfolio.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising analyzing the aggregated data, wherein analyzing comprises applying descriptive statistics to correlate the aggregated data.

6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising retrieving application selective offering (ASO) information, the ASO information containing information regarding the services provided by a provider relating to the management and maintenance of a software applications portfolio, the ASO information and the statistical model being used to generate the simulated portfolio.

7. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the second set of data comprises data and assumptions related to a client, billing procedures, and cost rules related to a provider, and cost savings information related to the client.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the cost savings information contains default industry cost savings goals.

9. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein generating a cost estimate comprises generating a provider cost build-up estimate associated with the simulated portfolio.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein generating a cost estimate comprises generating a client price estimate associated with the simulated portfolio.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the feasibility of outsourcing information technology services comprises:
calculating a solution feasibility index associated with the cost estimate; and
comparing the index to one or more feasibility ranges.

12. **(Currently Amended)** **Software** **A computer readable medium comprising software** for estimating the feasibility of outsourcing information technology services, ~~the software embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer code such~~ that when executed ~~is operable to~~ **performs the steps of:**

extract, based on one or more selection criteria, at least a portion of a first set of empirical data associated with one or more software applications in a historical portfolio, the historical portfolio containing software applications utilized by a client;

aggregate at least a portion of the extracted data;

create a statistical model of the historical portfolio based on the first set of data;

generate a simulated portfolio based at least in part on the statistical model;

generate a cost estimate associated with outsourcing technology services based at least in part on the simulated portfolio and a second set of data, at least a portion of the second set of data containing empirical data, the empirical data containing data and assumptions relating to the historical portfolio; and

determine the feasibility of outsourcing technology services based at least in part on the cost estimate.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to: group the extracted data based on the one or more selection criteria; remove, from the extracted group, the extracted data concurrently used by more than one project; and ~~extract~~ remove, from the extracted group, the extracted data associated with production support projects based on the one or more selection criteria.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to: randomly select at least a portion of the aggregated data to create a validation dataset; randomly select at least a portion of the validation dataset; and ~~aggregate~~ use the randomly selected portion of the validation dataset to create a validation portfolio, the validation portfolio being used to validate the statistical model of the historical portfolio.

15. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to: create a training dataset from at least a portion of the aggregated data, the training dataset used to create the statistical model of the historical portfolio; randomly select at least a portion of the training dataset to create a training portfolio; and train the statistical model using the training portfolio.

16. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to analyze the aggregated data by applying descriptive statistics to correlate the aggregated data.

17. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to retrieve application selective offering (ASO) information, the ASO information containing information regarding the services provided by a provider relating to the management and maintenance of a software applications portfolio, the ASO information and the statistical model being used to generate the simulated portfolio.

18. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the second set of data comprises data and assumptions related to a client, billing procedures, and cost rules related to a provider, and cost savings information related to the client.

19. **(Original)** The software of Claim 18, wherein the cost savings information contains default industry cost savings goals.

20. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to generate a cost estimate by generating a provider cost build-up estimate associated with the simulated portfolio.

21. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to generate a cost estimate by generating a client price estimate associated with the simulated portfolio.

22. **(Original)** The software of Claim 12, wherein the code is further operable to determine the feasibility of outsourcing technology services by:
calculating a feasibility solution index associated with the cost estimate; and
comparing the index to provider-assigned feasibility ranges.

23. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
prior to extracting the extracted data, collecting and storing the empirical data associated with the one or more software applications in the historical portfolio in a database;
and
applying the one or more selection criteria to the empirical data associated with the one or more software applications in the historical portfolio to extract the portion of the first set of empirical data.